

Derby Cathedral School Year 11 into Year 12 History

Summer work

Was Churchill the Right man for the Job?



OCR History Y113 Britain 1930-1997

Induction session

Web Links

www.churchillarchiveforschools.com

www.winstonchurchill.org

http://news.bbc.co.uk/today/hi/today/newsid_8234000/8234106.stm

The Task: Understanding sources and how they relate to an issue

In the examination, you need to show key skills in approaching evidence.

- You have to interpret evidence. You need to link it to the issue in the question and decide what the evidence is saying about that issue. In the example below the issue in the question is whether Churchill became prime minister because his contemporaries believed that he had the necessary abilities to lead.
- You will need to consider how useful the evidence is. This involves thinking carefully about who wrote it, why it was written and how typical it might be.
- This really involves knowledge of the whole situation in 1940 but it is also important to look at the type of evidence. The use of knowledge is a skill that will be developed in the next two chapters. Here, it is helpful to ask 'Was the person who produced this evidence in a position to know? Is there a reason why he or she might hold a certain view?'

Top Tips:

- Consider the usefulness of the source.
- Consider how the Nature, Origin and Purpose of the source influence the context.
- Do the sources share any key arguments or points?
- Focus your answer around the time period of 1940 – but be aware of the wider context.
- Ensure you answer the question – use the wording in your answer.

Task

Look at the sources below about how Churchill became prime minister in 1940.

“Using these sources in their historical context, assess how far they support the view that Churchill became prime minister in 1940 because he was thought to be the best person for the job”.

Source A An officer in the Admiralty has an unfavourable view of Churchill.

I dread any more influence from that arch-idiot Winston. I'm quite certain that he has played the whole war of the last eight months to become prime minister, often at the expense of helping to win the war. Witness his refusal to back the demands of the navy against the Air Force. The high ups still insist on going on with the mad Narvik campaign in Norway.

Acting Director of Naval Operations, diary, 9 May 1940.

Source B A former Conservative cabinet minister who resigned in 1938 over Munich gives a view of why Churchill became prime minister.

On 10 May 1940 the Germans invaded Holland and Belgium. Chamberlain's first reaction was that this terrible event gave him an excuse to remain as prime minister. This shows how men in very high office can acquire the belief that they cannot be replaced. He was persuaded that the events only meant he should depart urgently. The choice lay between Churchill and Lord Halifax. Churchill's reputation had risen sharply since 1939. He had shown himself a highly competent First Lord of the Admiralty. His speeches in the Commons had been better than any of his colleagues. Everything that he had prophesied in the past had come disastrously true. Halifax had merely remained the foreign minister of Munich. The choice was obvious.

Duff Cooper, *Old Men Forget*, 1953.

Source C A prominent Conservative politician recalls his reaction to the events preceding Churchill's appointment as prime minister.

The news of Chamberlain's intentions to stay was given out. The Labour leaders, Attlee and Greenwood, said they were willing to serve in a new national government but not under Chamberlain. The Cabinet was left in doubt what their attitude would be and Churchill knew that the task of forming a government would certainly fall on him.

Leo Amery, *My Political Life*, 1955.

Source D Chamberlain's secretary who went on to be Churchill's secretary recalls in his diary the King's decision on 10 May. He added comments when the diaries were published.

Friday 10 May The King has sent for Winston (fortunately because Halifax, true to form, had gone off to the dentist!). Mr Chamberlain would have liked Halifax to be prime minister. The King certainly disliked the change to Churchill and would have preferred Halifax. The feeling in Conservative circles was represented by a letter sent by Queen Mary to my mother hoping I would not go on to work with Mr Churchill. Winston told me that when he met with Chamberlain and Halifax, Chamberlain said to Halifax 'if the King asks me I should suggest sending for you to be prime minister'. Halifax said if asked he would propose Mr Churchill.

Sir John Colville, *The Fringes of Power: Downing Street Diaries, 1939-1955*, 1987.

MARK SCHEME

	<i>AO2: Analyse and evaluate appropriate source materials, primary and/or contemporary to the period, within its historical context.</i>
	Generic mark scheme for Section A, Question 1: How far do the four sources support the view? [30]
Level 6 26–30 marks	The answer has a very good focus on the question throughout. The sources are fully evaluated, using both provenance and detailed and accurate knowledge of their historical context in a balanced way, in order to engage with the sources and reach a convincing, fully supported analysis of them in relation to the issue in the question.
Level 5 21–25 marks	The answer has a good focus on the question. The sources are evaluated, using both provenance and relevant knowledge of their historical context, in order to engage with the sources and reach a supported analysis of them in relation to the issue in the question. There may be some imbalance in the analysis between use of provenance and use of knowledge.
Level 4 16–20 marks	The answer is mostly focused on the question. The sources are evaluated, using both provenance and generally relevant knowledge of their historical context, in order to engage with the sources and produce an analysis of them in relation to the question. The use of provenance may not be developed.
Level 3 11–15 marks	The answer is partially focused on the question. There is partial evaluation of the sources, with use of some knowledge of their historical context, in order to engage with the sources and produce a partial analysis of them in relation to the question.
Level 2 6–10 marks	The answer has only limited focus on the question. Evaluation of the sources is very general. There is limited use of generalised knowledge of historical context to engage with the sources and produce a basic analysis of them in relation to the question.
Level 1 1–5 marks	This answer is on the wider topic area, but not on the detail of the question. The sources are evaluated in a very basic way, primarily being used as a source of information with understanding of them being only partial. A very generalised knowledge of historical context is used in a very limited way to engage with the sources and to attempt a very simple analysis of them in relation to the question.
0 marks	No evidence of understanding or reference to the sources.

Preparation and planning

In order to do well answering this type of question you must ensure that your answer is focussed on the question. You need to evaluate the sources, using both their provenance¹ and relevant knowledge of their historical context. This is in order to engage with the sources and reach a supported analysis of them in relation to the issue in the question. The balance between using provenance and your own knowledge does not have to be a 50:50 split, but you must consider and use both.

Use this table to establish the basic relevance of the four sources. Source A has been done for you.

Source	View of key issue	Evidence from the source
A	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Does not think Churchill was best man for the job• Low view of his ability• Thinks Churchill has low intellectual ability and is an ambitious schemer who has put his own interests first	'arch-idiot' He has 'played the whole war' to become PM The Norway campaign is 'mad' and his own ambitions have come 'at the expense of winning the war'
B		
C		
D		

¹ Provenance concerns the nature origin and purpose of the source (NOP)

Provenance

Think about the usefulness of the source. This involves thinking about who wrote it, why it was written and how typical it might be. This involved using your contextual knowledge of 1940, not also the type of evidence you are using. Was the person in a position to know? Is there a reason he / she might hold a certain view?

e.g *source B*

- Was Duff Cooper in a position to know what was going on?
- What is the significance of his being a former cabinet minister, out of office since October 1938?
- Would he know more or less than the author of Source D?
- Would he be 'neutral', or might he favour Churchill?
- Do any of the other sources suggest anything different from Duff Cooper's view?
- Is there anything that might make Duff Cooper's view more or less credible?
- Do you think this view is typical of Conservative political opinion?

What questions would you ask for the other sources?

Contextual Knowledge

To get further you need to apply your own knowledge of the historical context.

For example

- What do you know that might confirm or challenge the reasons given in source B for Churchill being chosen?
- What do we know that might confirm the views about his abilities and ambition?

How your OCR A level grade will be calculated

Year 12	Year 13
Britain 1930–1997 (Enquiry topic: Churchill 1930–1951) 25% of A level marks	Civil Rights in the USA 1865–1992 40% of A level marks
The French Revolution and the rule of Napoleon 1774–1815 15% of A level marks	Topic based essay 20% of A level marks

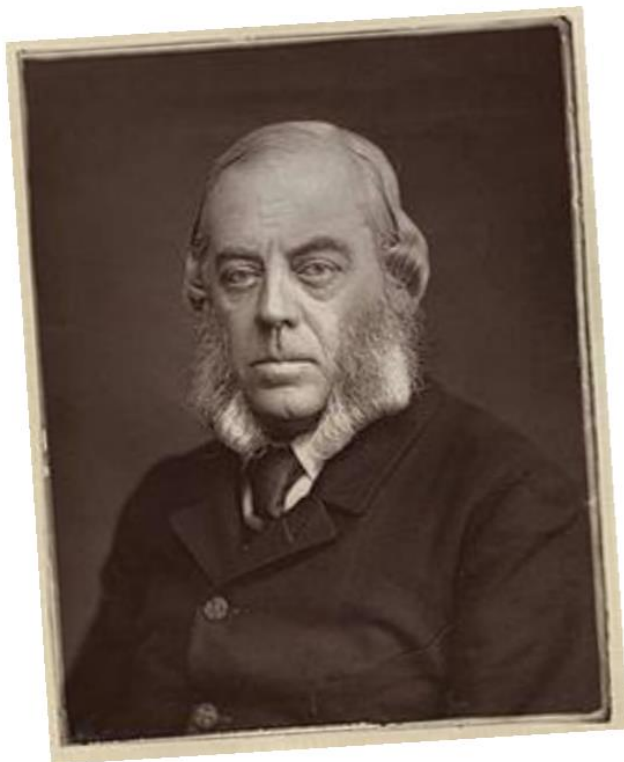
WINSTON CHURCHILL: THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB 1930-1940?



CHURCHILL'S BLOODLINES



DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH



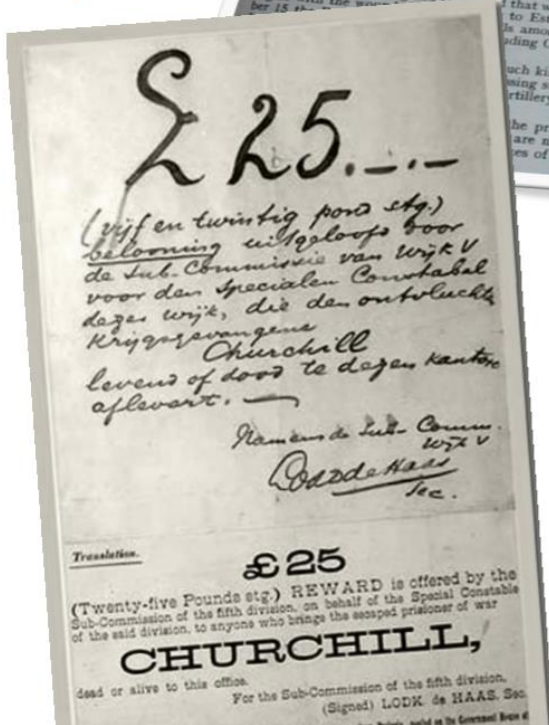
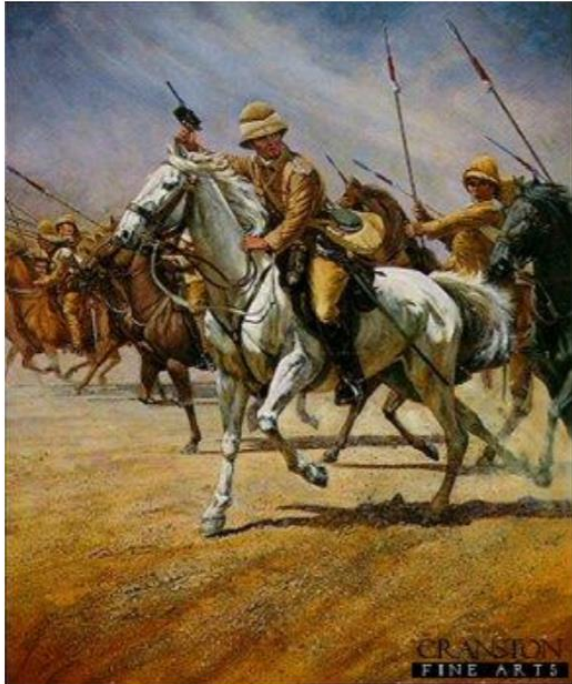
LORD AND LADY RANDOLPH CHURCHILL



CHURCHILL'S MILITARY CAREER



THE BRITISH CALVARY'S LAST CHARGE



CHURCHILL AND THE BOER WAR

CHURCHILL FIGHTS IN THE TRENCHES WWI



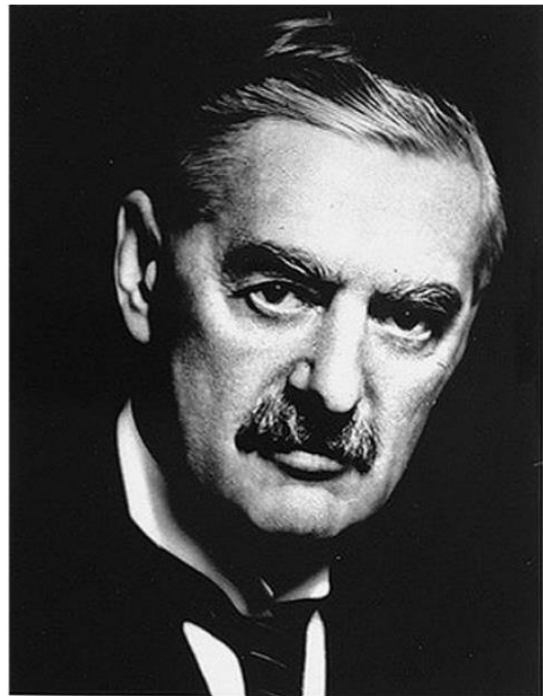
CHURCHILL-LLOYD GEORGE ALLIANCE FOR SOCIAL WELFARE REFORM



CHURCHILL - LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY WWI



CHURCHILL'S CONSERVATIVE RIVALS



THE SYDNEY STREET SIEGE



THE HOME SECRETARY AT SYDNEY STREET.

SYDNEY STREET CONTINUED

The Stepney affair was the infamous battle of Sidney Street. This was a dramatic but (had the Home Secretary not elevated it) relatively minor clash between police and criminals who might or might not have been dedicated anarchists but who were certainly recent immigrants... Three and a half weeks before Sydney Street, a gang of Latvians were found by the police trying to tunnel into a jeweller's shop in Houndsditch. They retaliated violently, killed two policemen, wounded another and got away. They found a relatively safe house in Sidney Street, Stepney, and the police did not again make contact with them until the evening of 2 January. Early the next morning the Home Secretary's (Churchill) authority for the reinforcement of the police with a more powerfully armed platoon of armed Scots Guards from the Tower of London was sought. In view of previous police casualties this was not unreasonable and Churchill immediately gave his consent. The trouble was that he then could not resist going to see the fun himself. He and his less than martial private secretary, Eddie Marsh were driven there from the Home Office in mid-morning. Both of them top-hatted and Churchill made himself more conspicuous by a fine astrakhan-collared overcoat, they provided a wonderful photographic opportunity, which was duly exploited.

There is some uncertainty as to whether Churchill attempted to give operational commands. To the police he almost certainly did not, although an officer in charge of a fraught operation, in which yet another policeman was killed and two wounded, must have found it more inhibiting than encouraging to have to perform in the presence of such an elevated superior. On the other hand when the house caught fire the officer in charge of the fire brigade detachment which was present did seek Churchill's instructions, and was told to let it burn down. This may well have been sensible in view of the dangerous criminals within. Eventually, two charred bodies were found, but this left one or two of the Latvians unaccounted for. When the new House of Commons met [Churchill] was subject to one of Balfour's more successful pieces of cool raillery. "I understand what the photographer was doing," he said, "but what was the right honourable gentleman doing?"

The significance was that the whole vastly publicized affair fortified Churchill's already incipient reputation for being far from a calm and judicious Home Secretary. He was perceived more as a trigger-happy boy scout, or at best a junior officer, who wished to behave in the streets of London as though he was still with the Malakand Field Force or on the armoured train in Natal.

"Churchill", Roy Jenkins page 194-195

"ARE THERE NOT OTHER ALTERNATIVES THAN SENDING OUR ARMIES TO CHEW BARBED WIRE IN FLANDERS?"

WINSTON CHURCHILL, FIRST LORD OF THE ADMIRALTY
29 DECEMBER 1914, TO PRIME MINISTER ASQUITH



THE DARDANELLES



WHAT ABOUT THE DARDANELLES?

1. Churchill claimed an attack “by ships alone” would be insufficient and recommended a combined operation.
2. Kitchener, the war [army] secretary, was adamant that he could not spare any troops.
3. Churchill wired Vice-Admiral Carden, the commander in the the Mediterranean, for advice. Carden approved.
4. Admiral DeRobeck attacked on 18 March 1915, but halted after losing three battleships and refused Churchill’s order to resume.
5. The purely naval phase, under Churchill, ends on 18 March.

CHURCHILL IS FIRED!

Asquith’s Liberal government, in crisis over an inadequate supply of ammunition, found it necessary to form a coalition war cabinet, inviting Conservatives, who, still anxious to punish Churchill for joining the Liberals in 1904, insisted on Churchill’s removal from both the Admiralty and the war cabinet. Asquith was happy to comply. Churchill resigns from the Admiralty on 15 May 1915.

“Churchill had fallen virtually unmourned. In the hour of disaster his considerable achievements at the Admiralty in the three years before the war were forgotten, his deficiencies magnified out of true proportion. The public could not know, nor was it to know for many years, the extent of his contribution to the expansion of the Navy in 1911-14, nor of his actions in the first weeks of the war...The errors, real and imagined, of his administration of the Admiralty were all that men saw.

[Admiral] Richmond described him as “a shouting amateur,” and commented that Churchill’s “personal vanity occupies so large a place in the arrangements that the operation is either a fiasco or is most wasteful in lives or material – or both.”

[Admiral] Beatty wrote that “the Navy breathes freer now it is rid of the succubus Churchill.” [Admiral] Jellicoe described him as “a public danger to the Empire.” The King curtly commented that Churchill was “impossible.” Many Liberals, chagrined by their downfall, saw him as the author of all their woes. Mrs. Asquith wrote with bitterness that the Cabinet had been “smashed,” “by the man I always said would smash it – Winston.”

CHURCHILL & INDIA

“It is alarming and also nauseating to see Mr. Gandhi, a seditious Middle Temple lawyer, now posing as a fakir of a type well-known in the East, striding half-naked up the steps of the Vice-regal palace, while he is still organizing and conducting a defiant campaign of civil disobedience, to parley on equal terms with the representative of the King-Emperor. Such a spectacle can only increase the unrest in India and the danger to which white people there are exposed.”

“Conservative Differences on India” February 23, 1931 p 94

THE ABDICATION CRISIS



ABDICATION CRISIS CONTINUED

Thus were the political fortunes of Baldwin and Churchill exactly and fatally reversed. The Premier's reputation soared to its zenith; that of Churchill to its nadir. "He had undone in five minutes the patient reconstruction work of two years," Nicolson noted on December 9. The other members of the Arms and the Covenant movement were dismayed or outraged by what they, and many others, regarded as another clumsy attempt to remove Baldwin by forming a "King's Party." Churchill was a romantic. He was a devout Royalist, feeling deeply for the King in his tragic predicament. His mind flew back to the glittering promise of the King's youth and his immense popularity in the Empire. ...He spurned the urgent advice of friends to remain silent. Churchill himself has written that "I was myself smitten in public opinion that it was the almost universal view that my political life was at last ended."

"Churchill" S Study In Failure", Robert Rhodes James p305

CHURCHILL -THE RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB IN 1940



CHURCHILL - RIGHT MAN FOR THE JOB IN 1940

I was a child of the Victorian era, when the structure of our country seemed firmly set, when its position in trade and on the seas was unrivalled, and when the realization of the greatness of our Empire and of our duty to preserve it was ever growing stronger. In those days the dominant forces of Great Britain were very sure of themselves and of their doctrines. They thought they could teach the world the art of government, and the science of economics. They were sure they were supreme at sea and consequently safe at home. They rested therefore sedately under the convictions of power and security.

“My Early Life”

Winston S. Churchill